

7 May 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Response of Egyptian Presidential
Advisor for National Security
Affairs Mr. Hafiz Ismail to
Dr. Kissinger's Message of
6 May 1973

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2. The following are Mr. Ismail's main points for Dr. Kissinger:

a. The Egyptian side prefers that Mr. Ismail's next meeting with Dr. Kissinger occur within this month's time frame rather than be deferred until June.

b. Mr. Ismail understands from Dr. Kissinger's 6 May message that the latter's plans and movements will be contingent upon his talks with the North Vietnamese, which are not completely firm at this point. Despite this uncertainty, Dr. Kissinger's 6 May message was helpful to Mr. Ismail, as it allows him sufficient latitude to proceed with the finalization of his own official visits to France and Spain.

c. Mr. Ismail had asked the French Government whether either 16 May or 21 May would be acceptable as the starting date of Mr. Ismail's official visit. Just prior to [redacted] meeting with Mr. Ismail, the French Government informed the latter that they prefer 16 May. While this French preference did not commit Mr. Ismail to 16 May, he will, in view of Dr. Kissinger's 6 May message, now confirm to the French on 7 May that 16 May is acceptable to him. King Faisal is now beginning his visit to Paris on 14 May.

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d. Mr. Ismail will also inform the Spanish Government on 7 May that he desires to begin his official visit to Spain on 21 May.

e. Hence, if Dr. Kissinger's talks in Paris with the North Vietnamese materialize, Mr. Ismail will simply stay on in Paris following his 16-18 May official visit there in order to meet with Dr. Kissinger in Paris in the period 19-21 May.

f. Mr. Ismail is hopeful that it will be possible for Dr. Kissinger to be free for an entire day for talks with Mr. Ismail in the 19-21 May period. Mr. Ismail indicated that if he and Dr. Kissinger then should require more than one day, they could possibly meet for a half day the morning of 21 May, and Mr. Ismail could still get to Madrid in time to start his official visit to Spain in the afternoon or evening of 21 May.

g. If Dr. Kissinger's talks with the North Vietnamese do not materialize, thus depriving Dr. Kissinger of his overt reason for visiting Paris, then Mr. Ismail will proceed to Madrid 18 May following the completion of his French visit, and, per Dr. Kissinger's 6 May message, Dr. Kissinger will fly secretly from the United States to the US Air Force base outside Madrid. Their meetings would then be held 19 and 20 May in Madrid, prior to Mr. Ismail's official visit to Spain beginning on 21 May.

h. Mr. Ismail will not say anything in Cairo to either the French or Spanish Governments concerning his meeting with Dr. Kissinger. Mr. Ismail will apprise either of these countries, as the case may be, only in Europe. Mr. Ismail is hopeful that Dr. Kissinger will learn definitely this week whether his North Vietnamese meetings are on. If they are, Mr. Ismail will inform President Pompidou personally of his 19-21 May meetings with Dr. Kissinger in Paris when Mr. Ismail makes his official call on Pompidou either 17 or 18 May. If the North Vietnamese talks do not materialize and Mr. Ismail's talks with Dr. Kissinger will therefore be in Madrid, Mr. Ismail will call his own Ambassador to Madrid to Paris on 16 May and instruct him to inform Spanish Foreign Minister Lopez-Bravo that while Mr. Ismail's official visit to Spain will not begin until 21 May, Mr. Ismail

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in fact will arrive in Madrid 18 May for the purpose of holding confidential talks with Dr. Kissinger in Madrid 19-20 May. Mr. Ismail assumes that Dr. Kissinger would also wish to inform either the Spanish or French Governments himself at an appropriate time.

i. Mr. Ismail will call in the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo either 7 or 8 May to inform the Soviet Government. Mr. Ismail plans to tell the Soviet Ambassador only that in the course of his visits to France and Spain, it may -- repeat may -- be possible for him to get together with Dr. Kissinger for a discussion of the Middle East question.

j. Mr. Ismail said that he had been very pleased with the manner in which the February talks had taken place and asked if we [redacted] could cope with meeting arrangements in either Paris or Madrid. [redacted] replied that we could accomodate in either place.

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k. The Egyptian side desires to maintain the secrecy of these talks. If the talks become known, the possibilities are too great for generating false expectations and for creating misunderstandings at this stage for Egypt with her Arab friends. Mr. Ismail said nevertheless that if the talks are held in Paris, they must be prepared for the possibility of publicity. If this occurred, the Egyptian side proposes simply to issue a statement affirming that a meeting between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Ismail took place in view of their fortuitous simultaneous presence there and in view of the dangerously explosive Middle East situation and the upcoming United Nations debate on the Middle East.

l. Mr. Ismail suggested [redacted] remain in Cairo until 8 May in case there are any additional points to clear up after Dr. Kissinger receives this message. Mr. Ismail invited [redacted] to his home the night of 7 May, so there will be at least one more opportunity to convey anything additional to Mr. Ismail.

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